

R E P O R T S

OF THE

S E L E C T M E N

AND

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF BRISTOL,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1872.

BRISTOL:
PRINTED BY R. W. MUSGROVE.
1872.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

The selectmen credit the town for the year ending March 1, 1872, as follows :

By list of taxes assessed April 1, 1871,	\$14,208.67
Savings bank tax,	235.82
Rail-road “	586.34
Literary fund,	104.10
Use of town hall,	5.00
Sale of liquors,	143.85
Cash in Treasury, March 1, 1871,	614.80
“ in hands of Collector,	2,721.88
Received of town of Hill,	12.18
“ “ A. Dolloff, for oxen,	186.00
“ “ County of Grafton, support of paupers,	75.92
“ “ D. R. Smith, on note,	60.00
“ “ Of Seth Cass, bal. of interest, 1869,	25.00
“ “ Rent of Armory Hall,	50.00
Borrowed,	10,291.64
	<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> \$29,321.20

Disbursements.

Paid State tax,	\$1,830.00
“ County tax,	1,456.59
	<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> \$3,286.59

School Money.

District No. 1,	\$43.23	
2,	1,246.00	
3,	37.38	
4,	32.12	
5,	40.38	
6,	53.57	
7,	11.33	
8,	68.70	
9,	62.95	
	<hr/>	\$1,595.66.

School House Tax.

District No. 2,	\$518.47	
1,	25.00	
M. J. Peters, school house money,	10.00	
	<hr/>	\$553.47
Paid outstanding orders of 1870,	\$428.38	

Pauper Bills.

Clark Fuller and family,	\$68.93	
Abigail Darling, for Clarissa Brown,	122.50	
Mrs. Shem Gray, for Wm. Sanborn,	147.50	
I. S. Chase, " " "	24.50	
Bates Brothers, shoes for Wm. Sanborn,	2.00	
G. M. Cavis, " " "	1.85	
T. H. Wicom, for Mary Swett,	159.75	
Bates Brothers, " "	1.25	
G. M. Cavis, " "	2.88	
D. C. Willey,	88.39	
O. K. Bucklin, transient paupers,	7.00	
For H. D. Hazelton,	26.85	
" Mrs. Sarah Batchelder,	128.48	
" Judith Sladen, to W. R. Fellows,	12.00	
	<hr/>	\$793.88

Highways and Bridges.

New road near D. H. Rice's	\$250.00	
Extension of Draper street,	300.00	
Bridge near Holden's, and widening road,	600.00	
	<hr/>	\$1,150.00
Orders for highway tax worked in 1870,	\$57.25	
<i>Worked out under direction of</i>		
C. A. Gale,	\$24.21	
Woodbury Sleeper,	77.62	
G. M. Wooster,	77.80	
O. S. Hall,	40.52	
Sarah Hilands,	9.07	
J. M. R. Emmons,	52.49	
J. W. Burley,	32.04	
Frederick Kidder,	23.75	
Gustavus Roby,	40.85	
A. J. Ferrin,	9.83	
C. N. Drake,	44.62	
Otis Sanborn,	15.80	
S. K. Worthen,	28.09	
G. T. Crawford,	918.11	
Miscellaneous expense on highways and bridges,	1,662.40	
	<hr/>	\$3,114.45
Total expense of highways and bridges,		<hr/> \$4,264.45

Paid on Notes.

D. S. Mason,	\$15.00
Alonzo Cheney,	300.00
Calvin Cass,	175.00
Clark Merrill,	146.24
J. M. R. Emmons, guardian,	476.51
J. M. R. Emmons, guardian,	95.00

Rebecca Cheney,	600.00	
Mrs. C. S. Brown,	16.00	
C. H. Proctor,	281.88	
John T. Whittemore,	234.98	
G. H. Robinson,	76.80	
Charlott Hibbard,	1,027.60	
Hannah Woolson,	6.00	
Levi Carter,	140.00	
Susan Kendall,	202.30	
Wm. Mudgett,	189.45	
Frederick Kidder,	140.50	
Mary Mudgett,	482.90	
Sarah Cheney,	84.28	
Ellen Griffith,	235.19	
Wm. A. Berry,	451.20	
S. H. Cross,	684.03	
Julia A. Cross,	198.03	
Walter Sleeper,	36.02	
Aaron Sleeper,	1,700.28	
J. A. Patten,	323.48	
B. B. Southmard,	728.60	
Relief W. Haley,	1,440.30	
H. E. Whittemore,	25.00	
		<hr/> \$10,512.57

Town Officers' bills.

Wm. A. Berry, Selectman,	\$114.67	
G. T. Crawford, "	110.00	
C. N. Drake, "	60.00	
Wm. L. Chase, Treasurer,	40.00	
Silas Ketchum, Supt. School Committee,	56.50	
R. W. Musgrove, Town Clerk,	25.00	
		<hr/> \$406.17

Abatement of Taxes.

Moses Bucklin,	1870,	\$13.05
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D. P. Prescott, Admr. 1870,	31.07	
	<hr/>	\$44.12
John Ray, 1871,	\$4.81	
Sarah Jaquith,	3.00	
Mrs. L. C. Brown,	9.00	
G. W. S. S. Gordon,	3.21	
Leston Rollins,	4.81	
James Taylor,	4.81	
M. G. Chandler,	4.81	
Samuel Berry,	.77	
Frank M. Heath,	1.28	
	<hr/>	\$36.50

Damage to sheep by dogs.

Hiram Heath,	\$35.50	
J. M. R. Emmons,	4.26	
Orrin Nelson,	11.36	
O. S. Hall,	11.36	
S. K. Worthen,	2.13	
D. M. Sleeper,	3.19	
	<hr/>	\$67.80

Miscellaneous Items.

Morrill & Silsby,	\$11.67
Insurance of town hall,	8.00
J. F. Cass, for hay,	11.32
M. S. Crosby, wood, 1870,	3.75
Rufus Eaton, hay,	9.13
R. W. Musgrove, printing	62.00
E. T. Bailey, oxen,	200.00
Herbert & George, lobby,	18.00
Bates Brothers, rent of lobby,	18.00
D. S. Mason, damage to horse,	10.00
A. J. Smith, repairing town clock,	20.00
O. K. Bucklin, repair of damage on roads,	14.84
S. K. Mason, counsel fees, 1870-71,	62.00

L. W. Fling, counsel fees, 1870-71,	86.75	
L. W. Fling, county.	22.06	
E. S. Foster, school books,	3.70	
S. Ketchum, care of library,	17.50	
“ “ school books &c.,	3.23	
“ “ posting notices,	4.66	
S. W. Swett, carts,	35.00	
R. W. Musgrove, printing.	14 00	
Four dollars each to the three Religious Societies,	12.00	
	<hr/>	\$647.61

Recapitulation.

Total amount received,		\$29,321.20
Paid out:		
State tax,	\$1,830.00	
County tax,	1,456.59	
Schools,	1,595.56	
School-house taxes,	553.47	
Outstanding orders of 1870,	428.38	
Pauper bills,	793.88	
Highways and bridges,	4,267.64	
On Notes,	10,512.57	
Town Officers' bills,	406.17	
Miscellaneous items,	547.61	
For Liquors,	440.09	
Liquor Agent,	177.06	
Abatement of taxes,	80.62	
Damage to sheep by dogs,	67.80	
In hands of Treasurer,	1,858.34	
In hands of Collector,	4,259.34	
“ “ Collector, tax of 1869,	52.46	
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Total Paid out,		\$29,321.20

Liquor Agency.

Paid M. W. White,	for Liquors,	\$168.57
“ N. Y. Brintnall,	“ “	229.95
“ B. C. Clark & Co.,	“ “	16.50
“ Albert Lauten,	“ “	17.55
“ for Record Book, Trucking and Freight,		7.52
“ R. W. Musgrove, services as agent,		177.06
		<hr/>
Total paid out,		\$617.15
Receipts from sales,	\$143.85	
Liquors on hand,	351.24	
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		\$495.09
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Loss in Liquor trade,		\$122.06

List of Notes due from the town.

Stephen Nelson,	\$117.62
J. M. R. Emmons, Guar. S. E. Heath,	427.25
Hannah Tebbets,	751.58
S. B. Whittemore,	142.18
Frederick Bartlett,	266.20
H. B. Fowler,	307.70
Harriett Whittemore,	143.14
H. M. Emmons,	874.28
Samuel Smith,	77.23
Hannah Woolson,	103.37
Dorcas W. Heath,	541.72
H. E. Whittemore,	752.81
Aaron Kidder,	1,321.45
R. A. Eastman,	1,644.45
J. F. Eastman,	1,371.30
Dorcas W. Heath,	532.14
C. W. Colby,	667.84
Alonzo Cheney,	294.14

Dorcas W. Heath,	166.04
Nancy Laney,	212.84
Alonzo Cheney,	610.37
Clark Merrill,	76.75
Willard Heath,	762.94
Betsey Ordway,	263.84
S. N. Heath,	208.77
Samuel Smith,	61.58
Rosanna Chase,	60.99
J. M. R. Emmons,	121.74
D. S. Mason,	499.94
Milo Fellows,	230.28
W. H. Danforth	211.29
Franklin Fogg,	454.97
Seth Glover,	568.54
Peter Whittemore,	321.47
E. S. Smith,	56.41
J. B. Brock,	59.60
Clarence Horn,	56.18
Franklin Fogg,	224.19
Sarah A. Dearborn,	111.93
C. E. Mason,	11.18
Laurette Leavitt,	419.35
Amanda M. Whittemore,	167.74
Alexander Curtice,	111.93
Favor Locke,	110.46
Rebecca Cheney,	245.88
John F. Brock,	193.53
Belinda K. Gordon,	45.34
B. S. Gordon,	218.36
C. M. Merrill,	140.74
Seth Glover,	1,086.50
Mrs. E. R. Crawford,	868.50
Josephine Moore,	161.12
Lucian L. Gordon,	377.07

Franklin Fogg,	536.36
Betsey Ordway,	643.63
Mary M. Chadwick,	26.82
Levi Carter,	605.27
Luther Robinson,	288.10
Rubia R. Sanborn,	106.48
E. H. Smith,	26.77
James H. Brown,	974.96
Lydia Cheney,	165.77
Abby P. Worthen,	65.26
David Haynes,	216.14
David Mason,	4,241.44
Samuel Smith,	92.46
Woodbury Sleeper,	118.14
Daniel Kelley,	118.14
Rosanna E. Chase,	59.04
David Mason,	64.27
J. S. Kelley,	379.04
Mary Chadwick,	104.15
S. C. Bean,	174.60
Varnum Pratt,	1,159.73
Mary E. Tilton,	105.30
Rubia R. Sanborn,	105.50
Ida L. Adams,	52.60
Albert C. Muzzey,	156.75
J. M. R. Emmons, Guar., S. E. Heath,	331.33
J. F. Tilton,	208.20
Lucy R. Stearns,	57.31
Mary W. Hayward,	1,174.07
Varnum Pratt,	727.30
H. Taylor Heath,	103.50
Oliver C. Phillips,	514.00
Clarence N. Merrill,	102.50
Franklin Fogg,	307.50
Susan Kendall,	206.95

D. K. Sanborn,	40.88
Mary C. Mudgett,	492.56
Sarah Cheney,	85.97
Wm. Mudgett,	137.70
Frederick Kidder,	127.50
George W. Keniston,	1,119.00
Wm. A. Berry,	254.00
Relief W. Haley,	1,450.38
Josephine Moore,	71.05
Beniah Wheeler,	503.50
S. B. Sleeper,	352.45
James H. Brown,	275.00
Lucy R. Stearns,	110.25
Arthur L. Worthen,	20.00
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	\$39,197.88

Debts due the town.

From taxes of 1869,	\$52.46
“ “ of 1870 and 1871,	4,259.34
In Treasury,	1,858.34
For rent of Armory Hall,	50.00
From county of Grafton, for support of paupers,	174.33
From school district No. 2,	52.47
	<hr/>
	\$6,446.94

Amount the town owes,	\$39,197.88
Amount due the town,	6,446.94

Actual debt, \$32,750.94

Decrease of debt \$1,344.70

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM A. BERRY,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
GEORGE T. CRAWFORD,	
CHARLES N. DRAKE,	
	<i>of</i>
	<i>Bristol.</i>

REPORT
OF THE
Superintending School Committee
OF THE
TOWN OF BRISTOL,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 12, 1872.

To Wm. A. Berry, George T. Crawford *and* Charles N.
Drake, *Esquires, Selectmen of Bristol:*

The Committee retained by you in office, to superintend the schools of this town during the present year, begs leave to make the following report:

That the teachers employed in the several schools in town have labored faithfully and conscientiously for the advancement of their pupils, your Committee has no reason to doubt. Indeed, teachers of district schools scarcely ever become so established in public favor and confidence that they can afford to be very negligent of their duties. They have a reputation to make or to sustain. Moreover, they are generally such as feel the responsibility, and are anxious to fulfill the duties, of their position. Their success will be proportioned to their fitness for the office, the material in the schools, and their ability to use or to overcome the helps and hindrances to success which they find in the schools or in the districts in which they teach.

There are districts in which it is scarcely possible to have a good school. There are others in which it is scarcely possible to have any other. Where the parents uniformly or generally appreciate the advantages of education, and are anxious to secure good teachers, and make the school as profitable as it can be, it will inspire in both teacher and pupils an ambition to do their best, and such a school can never be worthless, and will seldom be poor. Where, on the other hand, the parents are quarreling with each other, divided about district affairs, each obstinate and unreasonable to the last degree, each party bent on ruling or ruining the school, one party will generally succeed in spoiling all the other can do, however well intended, and no school can be very profitable under such conditions.

Again, where the parents have but a low appreciation of what schools should be, are indifferent to their conduct and success, manifest no desire to cooperate with the teacher to secure uniformity of books and a judicious classification, too ignorant to advise their own scholars, and too obstinate to be advised, a school will be, not what the teacher might make it, with their encouragement and support, but what she can make it by force of her own character, in spite of hinderances in the way.

Neither of these cases is suppositious. All exist among the schools of this town—the latter to a very serious and lamentable extent. There are vastly too many men who, when they have paid their school-tax, hired a teacher and sent their children to school, feel that they have fulfilled the whole duty of man, as to the prosperity of the school, and know nothing more about it only so far as their own scholars praise, or find fault with, the teacher. And this class is confined to no one neighborhood or district.

Your Committee has introduced no new regulations into the schools the past year, and made no changes in text-books, except in the substitution of Dalton's Physiology for Comings' as being, both in the opinion of the Superintendent and of the

Principal of the High School, better adapted to the wants of students of that science.

Two years ago your Committee made the use of Arithmetics and Readers as nearly uniform as practicable throughout the town. But the constant immigration of families from other towns and states, bringing in other books with them, the constant tendency of parents to buy books for their scholars that they ought not to have, and the constant interference of teachers in substituting other books, because they have studied them themselves, have greatly broken this uniformity, increased the number of classes, and diminished the usefulness of the schools. Indeed, a service of fifteen years in the public schools of New Hampshire and Vermont, has shown your Committee that a uniformity of text-books cannot be maintained, except by a constant exercise of the authority of the Superintendent against the agencies mentioned above, and the narrow prejudices and cupidity of many parents. Your Committee has been several times soundly berated and abused by silly people, because their children, when they graduated out of a lower into a higher department of the Graded School, could not continue to use the same books they had used; and even because, when they had finished one study, they had to have new books to begin another.

All the schools are greatly in need of, not a new kind, but a new edition, of Geography. Your Committee is of opinion that Cornell's Geography is better adapted to the wants of scholars generally than any other published. He found it, and has continued it, in all the schools in town. But many of those in use are old and do not record the recent changes and discoveries in that science. It is useless to teach scholars about Russian America, Upper and Lower Canada, Nebraska and Minnesota Territories, when those political divisions exist only in History.

A Spelling Book also, so arranged that one grade may answer for the whole town, is much needed, and if such a one

can be found, will save much confusion caused by the use of two grades, or of several kinds, as at present. Most of the smaller classes spell from their Reading Lessons.

Your Committee would take this occasion to urge upon the teachers of this town the importance and advantages of attending the State Normal School, and every session of a Teachers' Institute held within accessible distance.

Those branches belonging to the common school are few, simple and easy ; and, yet, are the foundation of all subsequent education. But even these are almost universally taught as an art, rather than a science, and when our teachers come out of the common schools, as almost all our teachers do, they are unable to teach in any other manner than that in which they have been taught. They teach by rule as they learned by rule. But rules only direct how things are to be done in conformity with a principle. Too many teachers know all about the rules, and nothing about the principle. Hence the necessity that they should avail themselves of the Normal School and the Institutes, where they will be taught how to teach.

Further, your Committee recommends that money be raised by subscription or otherwise, and a judicious and competent teacher of penmanship be employed to give free instruction in that art, one evening each week for twelve or twenty weeks each winter. There is scarcely a teacher of common schools that knows how to teach penmanship, and it is a branch of education shamefully neglected.

He also urges upon the people again the necessity and advantage of re-districting the town, changing the location of some school-houses and disposing of others, and reducing the number of schools. By such a measure better teachers might be employed, many more weeks of school obtained, money saved and the average scholarship of the town considerably increased. It will have to be done ultimately, and the sooner it is accomplished the more wisdom will the town exhibit. Keeping up the form and bearing the expense of regular terms of school for

a district of only one, two or three scholars, is simply absurd, when twice the amount of schooling might be had at the same expense, by going a very little farther to get it.

The Act passed by the last Legislature compelling parents, guardians and masters to send their scholars to school twelve weeks in each year, six of which must be consecutive, was posted in each of the districts at an expense to the town, of \$4.66. But no complaints have been made to the Superintendent, of violations or evasions of the statute.

In taking final leave of the schools in Bristol, there is one evil your Committee feels called upon to deprecate, and warn the people against: And that is a growing spirit of sectarian jealousy and ambition, in the management and instruction of the schools. There are in Bristol three Christian Churches, of as many different denominations, all strong, useful and valuable agencies in the moral economy of the town. But neither of these, as a Church, has any thing whatever to do with the management, direction and instruction of any of the public schools. It is a matter that lies entirely outside of their business, and never can be brought within the control of any denomination, with any liberty or intention of using it for denominational ends, without danger to the usefulness and permanency of the schools themselves. No citizen of the town, because he is a member of one of these churches, has any louder voice or greater right, than any other citizen of the town, who is not a member of any church. The schools are the educational machinery of the town, and belong to the town, whether it has any churches or not, and every person who has scholars to be taught, or property to be affected by the ignorance or intelligence of the people, has or should have, an equal interest and an equal voice in determining school affairs.

The position taken by some, that the preferences of any or every religious society have a right to be consulted, or that their interest should be regarded or their suffrage taken, in determining the Superintendents and Teachers of the schools, is

simply preposterous and absurd. The Superintendent who would interrogate a teacher as to denominational preferences in determining his or her fitness for the place, or who would use his official position in influencing the selection of teachers, with a view to denominational ends, or would be moved, by the thousandth atom of a grain, by denominational connections, in sustaining the discipline of the schools, ought to be impeached and fined for maladministration of his office. Or any Prudential Committee who would allow himself to be influenced to a like extent, in procuring teachers for a school; or any Teacher, who showed an equal degree of partiality in teaching or governing a school, for such reasons, ought to be forever after disqualified from holding such position. And yet it is widely known and by all judicious persons lamented, that a spirit of contention for supremacy in school affairs, has for years been fostered by foolish persons on denominational grounds. Let every one who desires the highest efficiency of the schools, entertain broader views, and take more catholic grounds. Your Committee would warn the people that, the moment such a spirit obtains supremacy, that moment the usefulness of the schools is in danger; that moment a principle is introduced which, if carried out, will destroy them altogether.

DISTRICT No. 1.

Term commenced on the 17th of April, and closed on the 23d of June. ETTA M. RAY, Teacher. When the Committee visited the school at its commencement, seven scholars were in attendance, five of which were from Hill. By the teacher's register it appears that another came in during the third week; two more during the fourth; three during the fifth; and one during the sixth week. These being allowed to form different classes by themselves, at the different times at which they entered, so multiplied the classes as to subtract much from the usefulness of the school. No teacher, with a school of twenty classes, can do justice to any one of them. The schol-

ars taken in late should have been required to enter classes already formed. Yet, with all these embarrassments, the school was admirably kept, and the course of instruction such as to teach the most that could be taught in the time given to each class. The teacher classified her school as well as she could considering the times at which they entered, and the various books they brought with them out of another town. The Committee this year again strongly recommends this district to unite with the adjoining district in Hill, or with district No 2, in Bristol. The whole attendance was 14 ; the average attendance 10. Richard Calley, Prudential Committee.

DISTRICT NO. 2.—See GRADED SCHOOL.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

A private term was taught by NELLIE DAY, commencing on the 24th of April, and closing on the 17th of June. Being a private term, it did not come under the supervision of the Committee. A register was, however, furnished Miss Day, and a report kindly returned by her. The number attending was 8 ; average attendance 7. These were mostly advanced scholars, forming a class in Algebra, in The Science of Common Things, and in Thompson's Seasons.

The Second or Public Term, was taught by MARY E. BARTLETT, of Merrimac, commencing on the 14th of August, and closing the 3d of November. Whole number of scholars 11 ; average attendance 9. Miss Bartlett has that peculiar tact, energy and dispatch that enables her to get through a great deal of business in a short time, without slighting her work, or confusing her scholars. After an intimate acquaintance with this school for several years, the Committee is of opinion that, taking into consideration the ages and number of the scholars, their general advantages, and their moral deportment, this school ranks higher than any other school in town. And it never appeared better than at its last examination. The teacher reports that Ida, Roxie and Frank Dolloff, Mary Clay, Hat-

tie Huse and Levi Nelson did not whisper during the term. Caleb Clay, Prudential Committee.

DISTRICT No. 4.

Term commenced on the 21st of August and closed on the 3d of November. MARTHA F. EMMONS, Teacher. Whole number of scholars 7; average attendance, nearly 7. There is an evenness and uniformity of scholarship, deportment, promptness and good intention about this school which is quite remarkable. There were only three cases of dismissal and only six of tardiness. Only two scholars are reported by the teacher as above the "ordinary" in Moral Deportment, and none below. While in Habits of Study and Rank as scholars, all are reported as "ordinary." The progress made was not great, but there was a quiet order and candor about the school that was charming. The "girls" all behaved like young ladies, the "boys" like young men; and the Committee could not but feel that the school was too timid to do itself justice on examination. J. M. R. Emmons, Prudential Committee.

DISTRICT No. 5.

Term commenced on the 8th of May, and closed the 2d of August. KATE S. ROBY, Teacher. There were only two scholars, and of these, one was present 74 days, the other 70. Their ages 9 and 10 respectively. The latter, a little girl, the Committee thinks the best reader of her age in town, and she missed no question in her examination. Both made much progress, and did great credit to themselves and their teacher. This is Miss Roby's fourth term in this school. The District contributed \$5.00 in addition to their share of public money, to lengthen the school. Gustavus Roby, Prudential Committee.

DISTRICT No. 6.

Summer Term commenced on the 15th of May and closed on the 1st of July. LOVERTIA E. EMMONS, Teacher. The school was visited at its commencement, but the Committee

was not notified at its close. Miss Emmons reports that "the pupils made much greater improvement in their deportment and scholarship than their first appearance promised. That she found some very fine scholars and thought the school superior to most in orthography, very few words being misspelled through the term. That a class of five boys, who commenced written Arithmetic the fourth week, deserve especial commendation for their diligent application." All the girls and five of the boys are reported as above the "ordinary," in Deportment, Habits of Study and Rank as Scholars. Nellie and Edwin Heath and Lizzie Gurdy did not whisper. The District gave the board and fuel.

The Winter Term was taught by LAURA JACKMAN, of Concord. The Committee was not notified of the commencement of the school till the second week of the term; nor of its termination till 2 o'clock in the P. M., of the day it closed. The teacher never came to the Committee for examination, and had no certificate or license whatever to teach in town. The term commenced on the 23d of October and closed on the 7th of December. The Committee visited the school once, and it appeared disorderly and bad. The register is so badly made out that it gives no clew to the condition of the school whatever. Of the one hundred and sixty-five items that it was the teacher's duty to report, one hundred and twenty-four are omitted. Hence there is nothing to show the Deportment, Habits of Study or Scholarship of any scholar. The whole attendance was 20. But the average attendance and the cases of tardiness and dismissal were none of them reported. Miss Jackman reports her school in one part of the register as being the First Term, and in another as being the Second Term of the year. Abram Dow, Prudential Committee.

DISTRICT No. 7.

Term commenced on the 28th of August and closed on the 26th of October. Mrs. SARAH E. SWETT, Teacher. There were three scholars this term, and all appear to have been pres-

ent every day. Mrs. Swett is a resident of the district, and has never taught before ; but succeeded far beyond the expectations of the Committee. He found it, both at the commencement and close, one of the pleasantest, quietest, and most industrious little schools in town ; and though the pupils were all small, they accomplished a good deal, for so short a time. The Prudential Committee, Benjamin Gray, was present at the examination.

DISTRICT No. 8.

The Summer Term commenced on the 7th of May and closed on the 9th of June. It was commenced by NELLIE A. WALLACE, of New Hampton, who had taught the same school two terms before. But being compelled to leave on account of sickness, the second week, her sister, Julia A. Wallace, completed the term. When the Committee visited the school at the commencement, it appeared orderly and industrious, and gave promise of being a good school. When it closed the Superintendent was absent from town. The whole attendance was 17 ; average attendance 16. There were no cases of tardiness, and only 3 of dismissal.

A Private Term was afterwards kept by Mary Ames, but how long it was, or how many attended it, the Committee does not know.

The Fall Term commenced on the 6th of November, and closed on the 13th of December. MARTHA F. EMMONS, Teacher. The whole attendance was 23 ; average attendance 20. The teacher says in her report, "she never heard better lessons than some of the scholars had through the whole term. But that, having so many classes, she was unable to give any the time it ought to have had ; and that she had very few cases of whispering." The term was so short that only a very little could be accomplished. The Committee is of opinion that one term of ten weeks would have been better than two of four and one-half and five and one-half respectively. There were only 5 instances of tardiness and 2 of dismissal. Fifteen scholars are reported

as above the "ordinary" in their Department and Habits of Study ; 6 "ordinary," and 9 above, in their Rank as Scholars ; while 8 are not reported at all in any of these respects. At the examination, while the school appeared kind and obedient to the teacher, it seemed to lack that energy and application that give life to a school. Perhaps because it was the "last day," and the scholars felt that their work was done. Levi Roby, Prudential Committee.

DISTRICT No. 9.

Term commenced on the 16th of October, 1871, and ended 31st of January, 1872. LOVERTIA E. EMMONS, Teacher. Whole attendance, 21 ; average attendance, 19, which was very large in proportion to the whole, and for so long a term. At the examination three parents were present. The scholars seemed tired, not of the school, but from so long application. A great deal was accomplished, but a great deal more might have been, had the school been capable of a better classification. The teacher could not have had more than 13 minutes for any class. No class ought to have less than 30. There were several classes not in the common school course, including Algebra, Familiar Science, Book-Keeping and Latin. There were 22 cases of tardiness. Twelve are reported as above the "ordinary," in Department, Habits of Study and Rank as Scholars. The teacher reports that the District gave the board and fuel to lengthen the school. The Committee is of opinion that the teacher earned them by "boarding round"—not that it is, by any means, a bad District to board in. "Boarding round" ought to be abolished by law, as it is in some states. The giving of board in this way is always generously intended : but it is not agreeable to private families to have teachers billeted upon them, and it is not always agreeable to teachers to be so disposed of. This is Miss Emmons' 20th Term of Teaching. Charles A. Gale, Prudential Committee.

GRADED SCHOOL.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

KATE F. GEORGE, Teacher. The First Term commenced on the 17th of April, and closed on the 23d of June. Whole attendance 51; average, 44. The Second Term commenced on the 4th of September, and closed on the 25th of November. Whole attendance 61; average, 43. The Third Term commenced on the 18th of December, to continue 12 weeks, but is not closed at the making of this report. Whole attendance 45; average for 9 weeks, 41. This department comprising so many very young pupils, has its average attendance reduced by stormy and bad weather, in which such little folks cannot get out. The number of pupils for the Summer Term was increased to such an extent as to necessitate the introduction of 24 additional chairs, to accommodate them. The school is too large for its own comfort or profit, and accommodations ought to be furnished immediately for its division. The sooner the District meets this want the more wisdom it will display. Pupils cannot be advanced out of it earlier or faster than they have been, without over-crowding the next higher department, or without deranging the graduation of studies in all. Many have been advanced when only partially fitted, to make room for others, much to the detriment of the Intermediate School, and each of the several grades is injured by such a process. Let not the citizens say, they have built a school-house, at an expense of \$12,000, and it ought to be large enough, but let them be thankful their village has increased so as to demand more room, for its schools, and meet the want like enterprising men, who can see their own interest. Miss George deserves much praise for the admirable manner in which she has managed her

school, even when so over-crowded. Sixty-one children, from 4 to 10 years old, are a good many for one teacher to look after, and if any don't believe it let them try it.

INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT.

SARAH E. COFFIN, Teacher. The several Terms commenced at the same times, and continued the same number of weeks, as in the Primary Department, except that the Second Term closed on the 24th of November. The whole attendance during the First Term was 37; average 31. Six pupils, were not absent one half day. The whole attendance during the Second Term was 41; average, 33. Six pupils, also this term, not absent one half day. There were 25 cases of tardiness. But there were 35 pupils not tardy at all, while one was tardy 10 times. The whole attendance during the Third Term was 35; average for 9 weeks, 29. Of these, 7 have not been absent or tardy. This school has been kept in good order by the Teacher, though containing some turbulent elements, and appeared well at the close of the Second Term. As the annual examination has not yet taken place, in any of the Departments, their progress cannot be reported. No scholar in this Department has been sent or reported to the Superintendent for discipline, correction, or reproof, during the year.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

NANCY A. DURGIN, Teacher. Terms commenced at the same times, and continued the same number of weeks as in the Intermediate. Whole attendance, First Term, 47; average, 40. Whole attendance, Second Term, 45; average, 35. Whole attendance Third Term, 49; average, 40. During the First Term, 7 girls were not absent one half day; and the same was true of 4 boys and 2 girls during the Second Term; and of 10 pupils during the Third Term. Two girls have not been absent one half day during the year. But the Teacher reports of oth-

ers as follows: "Five scholars (names given, which any one can see by looking at the Register in the Town Clerk's office.) reduced the per cent. of attendance full 6 1-4, by their irregularity, during the first term: and neither of them kept away by sickness of any account, save one, detained a few days by the death of his mother. Six scholars, (names also given.) including four of the above, averaged an absence of 6 1 half days each; thus reducing the per cent. 6 7-9." Such things would not occur, if the parents of these children gave any care to their education, or looked after their interest; and such shameful neglect is culpable in the last degree, and without the slightest excuse. To be sure, these scholars are no advantage to the school when they are there. They are a positive injury. Neither is the school of any use to them, when they are out more than half the time, as they were. And their parents are responsible to God and to society for the recklessness of such scholars. Notwithstanding these facts, the Teacher further says: "The Deportment and Habits of Study generally among the scholars are better than they were a year ago, and obedience more cheerfully rendered. There have been few cases of insubordination that have not been easily quelled. While we are forced to admit that the moral deportment of some is not good, we still flatter ourselves we have as few *evil disposed* boys and girls as are to be found in village schools of two hundred pupils."

HIGH SCHOOL.

JOSEPHINE MOOR, Teacher. Terms opened and closed at the same times as in the Grammar School.

The First Term the whole attendance was 41; average, 32. Of these, 15 were boys; 26 were girls; the oldest, 18; the youngest 12. There were 77 cases of tardiness; but 23 scholars were not tardy at all. Two pupils not absent one half day.

The Second Term the whole attendance was 46; average, not quite 37. Of these, 25 were boys; 21 were girls. There were

54 cases of tardiness, 20 of which were by one scholar; and 30 scholars were not tardy at all. Eight were not absent one half day.

Third Term, the whole attendance was 51; average for 9 weeks, 44. Ten pupils have not been absent one half day during the 9 weeks, and 4 others have not during the 7 weeks they have attended. The term being not yet closed, the other items have not been ascertained.

The studies pursued in this department the past year, beyond the Common-School course, have been Physiology, Science of Common Things, Algebra, Book-Keeping, Geometry and Latin.

The whole number of weeks of school for the year will be 33. In addition to the public money, the District raised by taxation, \$300.

In regard to all the departments of the Graded School, the Committee has felt, since they have been under their present Instructors, that they were in safe, faithful and judicious hands. The rank of scholarship in the Common-School studies, both in the Grammar and High Schools, has been constantly kept below what it might be, partly by the necessity of advancing scholars into them before they were thoroughly fitted, in order to keep the two lower schools from overflowing, and partly by the non-attendance of a portion of the scholars during the Summer and Fall Terms. To obviate the latter difficulty, he recommends that, hereafter, the annual examination for advancement take place at the commencement of the Fall Term, instead of the close of the Winter Term, as heretofore.

The Committee would take this occasion to acknowledge his indebtedness to the Selectmen of the town, for their undeviating support, in maintaining wholesome regulations in the schools; to the various Prudential Committees who have advised and co-operated with him to secure and sustain good Teachers in their districts; to those Teachers who have given a cheerful assent and earnest support to his plans for the good

government and instruction of the schools ; to every citizen of the town, who has given him one word of approval and encouragement in the performance of his duties ; and to every pupil in the school, who has, by good conduct and example, assisted him to promote the interests of education in the town.

SILAS KETCHUM,

Superintendent of Schools.